

SPAIN AND CUBA.

Official Correspondence Revealed—The Insurrection—How it Has Defied the Spanish Authorities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Mr. Fish this morning transmitted to the Senate the information in relation to Cuba called for by a resolution of that body passed on the 8th instant. It consists of letters which passed between the State Department, Senator Roberts, Mr. Hale, Mr. Sikes, Mr. Hall, Consul at Matanzas, Mr. Plum, Consul-General at Havana, a letter from Mr. Grosvenor, P. Lowry, and affidavits submitted by William M. Evans, Esq., Consul for the Cuba Republic, to the Attorney-General. The following are abstracts of some of the letters:—

Mr. Hall wrote to the State Department on December 17, 1898, that "the insurrection is gaining strength, and that a general distrust of Spanish authority prevails in Matanzas." Again, on February 25, 1899, he transmits to the State Department a letter from the Consul General at Sagua La Grande, showing that "the great exaggeration about the movements of the insurgents." In another letter, dated November 17, 1899, he states that "the news of the Spanish revolution was enthusiastically received in Cuba, and that the views of the Cubans, relative to slavery, are very diverse. Some desire its immediate abolition, some gradual emancipation, and others its continuance. The insurrection in the Eastern and Central Departments is very formidable."

In a letter dated March 11, 1899, he sends a decree of the insurgent Assembly abolishing slavery, and under date of March 27, 1899, sends a decree of the Captain-General authorizing the capture on the high seas of vessels carrying men, arms, etc., in aid of the insurgents, and directing the execution of persons so captured.

"In answer to the decree Mr. Fish writes under date of April 3, 1899, to Senator Roberts, calling attention to the Captain-General's decree, and informing him that United States citizens have the right to carry on the high seas articles destined for the enemies of Spain, subject to seizure by the United States."

"In answer, under date of April 17, 1899, Mr. Fish says he does not perceive the necessity or propriety of issuing such a proclamation. When Mr. Villanueva's proclamation was issued, peace prevailed in Cuba, but an armed invasion was threatened from the United States. Now a portion of the people of Cuba are in insurrection to resist the United States, and hostilities are continuing. The United States will be in no hurry to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans, as the United States is still suffering from the effects of precipitate recognition of the rights of the Cubans, and they will not depart from the policy they have advocated. The sympathy of the people of the United States is with people striving to secure the rights of self-government, and with all efforts to free this continent from transatlantic control. The United States will not abridge the right of discussion, but will confine their interference to prevent unlawful acts, the infliction of their obligations to Spain and other friendly powers."

"On April 22, 1899, Mr. Hall sent to Mr. Fish a copy of the decree of the Captain-General, dated April 1, 1899, prohibiting the alienation of property in Cuba except with the consent of the Spanish Government."

"On April 30, Mr. Fish writes to Senator Roberts that the President has seen with regret the decree of April 1, and hopes that it may be modified so as not to apply to property of citizens of the United States."

"Under date of April 30, 1899, Mr. Hall transmits to Mr. Fish Count Valmadesa's proclamation of April 4, that every man over fifteen years of age found away from home may be shot, that every house and every building may be burned, and that every man living with his relations may be carried forcibly to Bayamo."

"On May 10, 1899, Mr. Fish wrote to Senator Roberts, protesting in the interest of civilization, against Count Valmadesa's proclamation, and to Mr. Hale on May 11, directing him to make representations to the Spanish Government against Valmadesa's proclamation. Under date of June 4, 1899, Mr. Plum wrote to Mr. Fish, announcing the despatch of General Dulce, and stating that the insurgents are mostly creoles; that the Spanish residents, even, who have their business or property identified with the island, are dissatisfied with the conduct of the Government, and they wish the United States to send out from Spain, and have no interest in the island. The Spanish residents, though disagreeing as to the future, having deposed General Dulce, may do the same with the new Captain-General. The United States has an interest in the island number 30,000—about 10,000 in Havana. They are unpaid, and furnish their own arms. The Government depends solely upon them to enforce its decrees. The organization is offered by men of position, but the men in the ranks are reckless, and their violence to the citizens is outrageous."

"Under date of August 10, just after the execution of Wyeth and Speckman, heretofore described in these despatches, Mr. Fish directs Mr. Sikes to demand of the Spanish Government indemnification for the families of Speckman and Wyeth, and protests in the name of the President against the barbarous mode of warfare on the part of Spain in Cuba, and Mr. Sikes telegraphs in reply that repatriation has been promised for the recent victims of the execution."

"Under date of July 16, Mr. Fish protests to Senator Roberts against the decree of the Captain-General which directed cruisers to arrest and hold vessels on the high seas under the treaty of 1795 with the United States, and that Spain recognize the war existing between her and the Cubans, as it is only in such a state that the treaty of 1795 with the United States applies, and asks that if Spain recognizes the existence of the war, he be notified, so as to govern himself accordingly, and that any continuance of the said decree would be considered a recognition by Spain of a state of war with Cuba. In response to this there was a notification of the decree—a regular back down on the part of Spain."

"In a letter dated September 18, 1899, Roberts expresses fears that the United States is about to grant belligerent rights to Cubans, which letter was answered by Mr. Fish, under date of October 13, assuring Roberts that the United States had no such intention, and that the time, but would not commit itself to any particular course of action."

"Mr. Plum writes to Mr. Fish, under date of September 21, 1899, showing how Spanish authorities control the Havana press to mould public opinion, and under date of October 21, 1899, says the rulers in Cuba wish well to the island, and desire to stop the effusion of blood; that the general opinion is that the abolition of slavery should be gradual, though none think it should be deferred more than five years."

"Under date of October 10, 1899, Mr. Sikes transmits Mr. Fish a copy of a decree of the Spanish Government, giving liberty of religion in Cuba. Also, a note from the Spanish Minister of War, asking the President to use his influence with the Cuban refugees to secure a less savage character to the war, and to release the Spanish gumbato, which, he assures him, are not intended to operate against Peru or Cuba, but to defend the coast against filibusters."

"Under date of October 10, 1899, Mr. Fish transmits Mr. Fish a copy of a circular inciting the negroes to burn the estates, which he believes to have been printed in New York."

The long series of documents winds up with

Judge Hoar's opinion on the detention of the Spanish gumbato, and he advises Mr. Fish that he thinks that it is not proper for the United States to issue a libel on the United States against the gumbato, under the third section of the statute of 1818. Besides the letters referred to is the despatch of Mr. Sikes to Secretary Fish, referring to returns to be granted to Porto Rico and Cuba, which was several weeks ago published in the Washington Post. The documents all go to show that whenever the Government of the United States has made any demands the Spanish Government have backed squarely down.

THE SUN'S CROWN.

From the London Spectator.

A circumstance has just been brought to light through the careful study of the photographs of the recent total solar eclipse which is full of interest and significance. When the sun is totally eclipsed, there springs suddenly into view a glory of white light, resembling the nimbus which painters surround the head of a saint. Astronomers have agreed to call this appearance the "Crown," but hitherto they have been perplexed by doubts whether this crown of glory belongs to the sun or the moon, or whether, in fact, it is formed by our own atmosphere.

If we briefly consider what is commonly seen, it will be found that the "Crown" is not a uniform interest and importance of the discovery which has just been made respecting the corona. As the moon is about to hide the last narrow streak of the sun's disc, the first signs of the corona make their appearance. But only when totality has commenced does the phenomenon present itself in full splendor. It is no faint gleam, like the light of a twilight sky. "I had imagined," says Mr. Baily, speaking of the eclipse of 1842, "that the corona, as to its luminous character, would not be brighter than the faint crepuscular light which sometimes takes place on a summer evening. I was, however, astonished at the splendid scene which suddenly burst upon my view. All round the eclipsed sun, to a distance equal to the diameter of its apparent diameter, there is a brilliant ring of light, which appears, under favorable circumstances of vision, to have a well-defined edge. But this is not the complete corona. Beyond the edge of this ring of light extends a fainter, sometimes only a faint, but sometimes rays or streamers, which extend some eight or nine times farther from the eclipsed sun than the bright inner circle of light. The color of the corona is commonly described as white; but it can be as blue, as green, as red, as yellow, and blue."

Such is the corona as seen by astronomers. But the question will at once arise, what is the real position and what are the true dimensions of this beautiful object? Of course, if we regard it as a mere optical phenomenon produced by our own atmosphere, we need not try to find an answer to these questions. The appearance of the corona, its apparent figure, and its variations of figure would have merely a meteorological interest, apart, of course, from the optical questions they involve. If, on the other hand, we regard the corona as a real solar appendage, we are forced to consider it as one of the most important and striking features of the solar system. The ring of brighter light around the sun is then seen to represent a global shell about 90,000 miles in depth, and surrounding the whole mass of the central luminary of the planetary system. The question of the corona, therefore, becomes a more astounding phenomenon, since looked on as a solar appendage it represents a shell of matter fully 800,000 miles deep in every part, and forming with the sun, which it encloses, a sphere some two and a half millions of miles in diameter—the largest sphere of matter which the science of astronomy presents with any certainty to our consideration. But if the corona belongs to the moon, its dimensions shrink into relative insignificance; in fact, our own earth is a larger globe than the coronal sphere so understood.

The question of the corona has long been seen to rest between the two former solutions. Halley rather favored the notion that the corona is a lunar phenomenon, but he admitted that one whose judgments he "must always reverse" (the reverend, doubtless, to his illustrious friend Newton) held a contrary opinion. We now know very certainly that the moon has no atmosphere whose extent we can measure, certainly no atmosphere approaching in extent the dimensions of the coronal ring.

During the great solar eclipse of 1898 very little attention was given to the corona because astronomers were very anxious to determine the nature of the rose-colored prominences. But from the few observations which were made, the question whether the corona belongs to the sun or is a phenomenon of our own atmosphere was left an open one. It was hoped that the problem of the corona might be solved during the total eclipse which occurred last August in North America. At first, however, the results of the observations seemed more perplexing than any which had yet been presented to the notice of astronomers. As Mr. Lockyer remarks, they were "bizarre and puzzling in the extreme." They seemed to point to the corona as a permanent solar aura, since some of the observers found in the spectrum of the corona the same bright lines which belong to the spectrum of the sun.

So perplexing did this result appear, that Mr. Lockyer was disposed to doubt whether some mistake had not been made. The results of his own observations had led him to the conclusion that the solar atmosphere, which he had named the "solar wind," was not so dense as the enormous dimensions of the corona would imply, if the corona really were a solar atmosphere. It will be known to many of our readers that Dr. Frankland and Mr. Lockyer have worked together in this matter, and they have found that the appearance of the bright lines belonging to the prominences can be taken as a means of estimating the pressure of the atmosphere in which those prominences appear; and the results of their observations pointed, as we have said, to a relatively rare atmosphere. But now it would seem that little further doubt can be entertained respecting the fact that the brighter coronal ring, at least, belongs to the sun. For on a careful comparison of the photographs of the corona taken on the 17th and 18th of August, it is found that the disc of the moon travelled over the corona; and further, that the corona presented the same appearance as seen from widely separated places. It will be remembered that photography of the corona in the same way has been made on several occasions, and the colored prominences. It was discovered during the eclipse of 1896 that the moon travelled over the prominences, and so astronomers pronounced decisively that that those objects belong to the sun. It would appear, therefore, that now, that the corona is also a solar appendage.

But how are we to get over the difficulties suggested by Mr. Lockyer's observations? It seems perplexing in the extreme to regard the corona as a solar atmosphere, since, we have seen, it is not so dense as the enormous dimensions of the corona would imply, if the corona really were a solar atmosphere. It will be known to many of our readers that Dr. Frankland and Mr. Lockyer have worked together in this matter, and they have found that the appearance of the bright lines belonging to the prominences can be taken as a means of estimating the pressure of the atmosphere in which those prominences appear; and the results of their observations pointed, as we have said, to a relatively rare atmosphere. But now it would seem that little further doubt can be entertained respecting the fact that the brighter coronal ring, at least, belongs to the sun. For on a careful comparison of the photographs of the corona taken on the 17th and 18th of August, it is found that the disc of the moon travelled over the corona; and further, that the corona presented the same appearance as seen from widely separated places. It will be remembered that photography of the corona in the same way has been made on several occasions, and the colored prominences. It was discovered during the eclipse of 1896 that the moon travelled over the prominences, and so astronomers pronounced decisively that that those objects belong to the sun. It would appear, therefore, that now, that the corona is also a solar appendage.

But how are we to get over the difficulties suggested by Mr. Lockyer's observations? It seems perplexing in the extreme to regard the corona as a solar atmosphere, since, we have seen, it is not so dense as the enormous dimensions of the corona would imply, if the corona really were a solar atmosphere. It will be known to many of our readers that Dr. Frankland and Mr. Lockyer have worked together in this matter, and they have found that the appearance of the bright lines belonging to the prominences can be taken as a means of estimating the pressure of the atmosphere in which those prominences appear; and the results of their observations pointed, as we have said, to a relatively rare atmosphere. But now it would seem that little further doubt can be entertained respecting the fact that the brighter coronal ring, at least, belongs to the sun. For on a careful comparison of the photographs of the corona taken on the 17th and 18th of August, it is found that the disc of the moon travelled over the corona; and further, that the corona presented the same appearance as seen from widely separated places. It will be remembered that photography of the corona in the same way has been made on several occasions, and the colored prominences. It was discovered during the eclipse of 1896 that the moon travelled over the prominences, and so astronomers pronounced decisively that that those objects belong to the sun. It would appear, therefore, that now, that the corona is also a solar appendage.

an electric flash, when examined by the spectroscopic, gives a bright-line spectrum corresponding to the nature of the substances taken place. May we not conclude with some confidence that we see in the aurora, the zodiacal light, and the solar corona, a light due simply to such electrical discharges excited by the sun's action? We know that in our own atmosphere there is a continual discharge of meteoric dust, and astronomers have long believed that in the sun's neighborhood meteoric streams are much more densely aggregated than near the earth; so that there is no want of material to do the theory we have here ventured to propound.

WINES AND LIQUORS.

URBANA WINE COMPANY'S

Imperial Champagne,

A Pure, Rich and Trusty Wine, made after the French method, superior to any American and many brands of imported

CHAMPAGNE,

FOR SALE BY

JAMES R. WEBB,

WALNUT AND EIGHTH STREETS,

12 16 tenth st PHILADELPHIA.

HERMAJESTY

CHAMPAGNE.

DUNTON & LUSSON.

215 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE IS

drawn to the following very Choice Wines, etc., for sale by

DUNTON & LUSSON,

315 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

CHAMPAGNE—Agents for her Majesty, Due du

Montepellier, Carlo D'Amico, Carlo D'Amico, and

Charles D'Amico, Via Imperiale, 10, Milano.

MADRID—Old Island, South Side Reserve.

SHERRIES—F. Rodriguez, Amalinda, Porto, Val-

ley, Pale and Golden Bar, Cava.

PORTS—Vinho Velho Real, Valente, and Crown.

SAFES—From A. J. S. of Montreal and Borden,

Canada, and various makes.

G. N. DUNTON, Humessey, Otard, Dupuy & Co's various

vintages.

CARSTAIRS & McCALL,

Nos. 126 WALNUT and 21 GRANT STREETS.

Importers of

BRANDIES, WINES, OLIVE OIL, ETC.,

AND

COMMISSION MERCHANTS

For the sale of

PURE OLD RYE, WHISKY AND BOURBON WHIS-

KIES.

528 2d St.

CARSTAIRS' OLIVE OIL—AN INVOCATION

of the above for sale by

CARSTAIRS & McCALL,

528 2d St. Nos. 126 WALNUT and 21 GRANT STS.

Sharpen the Appetite.

Y. P. M.

Makes the Weak Robust.

Y. P. M.

Adds to the term of Life.

Y. P. M.

Is Unadulterated.

Y. P. M.

Is superior for Mince Meat.

Y. P. M.

Makes Best Whisky Punch.

Y. P. M.

Cures Dyspepsia.

Y. P. M.

Is the Best in the World. 12 16m

CARRIAGES, ETC.

GARDNER & FLEMING,

CARRIAGE BUILDERS,

No. 214 South FIFTH Street,

BELOW WALNUT.

A Large Assortment of New and Second-hand

CARRIAGES,

INCLUDING

Coupe Rockwags, Phaetons, Jenny Linns, Buggies,

Depot Wagons, Etc., Etc., 12 25 tithes.

For Sale at Reduced Prices.

CLARENCE,

COUPES, and

SLEIGHS,

AT COST.

S. W. JACOBS,

12 15 104 St. No. 617 ARCH Street.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of GEORGE F. RANDOLPH, deceased.

The Auditor appointed by the Court to receive and

adjust the first account of CHARLES S. WOOD and

HANNAH F. RANDOLPH, Executors of the last will

and testament of GEORGE F. RANDOLPH, deceased, and

report distribution of the balance in the hands of the

deceased, will be received by the Court on Wednesday,

December 21, 1899, at 10 o'clock P. M., at the

Office of J. B. TOWNSEND, Esq., No. 214 ARCH

Street, in the City of Philadelphia. 12 18 25th St.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY

AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Estate of EDWARD DILLON, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that EDWARD DILLON, the

widow of EDWARD DILLON, deceased, has filed in said

Court her petition, with the account of her property

she claims to retain under the act of Assembly of

April 14, 1891, and its supplements, and that the same

will be received by the Court on Wednesday, Decem-

ber 21, 1899, unless exceptions be filed thereto.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Court, at Phila-

delphia, this 12th day of December, 1899.

J. B. TOWNSEND, Esq.,

Attorney for Petitioner.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY HAVING

been granted to the subscribers upon the Estate of

SAMUEL CARL, deceased, all persons indebted to the

deceased are notified to make payment, and those having claims

present them to

JACOB DINGER,

No. 122 1/2 EIGHTH St.

EDWIN M. GARR,

No. 122 1/2 MARLBOROUGH St.

WIRE WORK.

GALVANIZED and Painted WIRE GUARDS,

store fronts and windows, for factory and warehouse

windows, for churches and cellar windows.

IRON and WIRE RAILINGS, for balconies, offices

cemetery and garden fences.

Liberal allowance made to Contractors, Builders

and Carpenters. All orders filled with promptness,

and work guaranteed.

ROBERT WOOD & CO.,

1116 N. 11th St. Philadelphia.

DR. M. KLINE CAN CURE CUTANEOUS

Eruptions, Marks on the Skin, Ulcers in the Throat,

mouth and nose, sore legs and sores of every conceivable

character. Office, No. 1304 EIGHTH St., between

Market and Market St. 12 14

INSURANCE.

1829.—CHARTER PERPETUAL.

Franklin Fire Insurance Company

OF PHILADELPHIA.

Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT St.

Assets Jan. 1, '69, \$2,677,372 '13

CAPITAL, \$1,000,000

ACCUMULATED FUND, \$1,000,000

PREMIUMS, \$1,193,843 '93

UNSETTLED CLAIMS, \$67,781 '12

INCOME FOR 1899, \$260,000

Losses paid since 1829, over \$5,500,000

Perpetual and Temporary Policies on Liberal Terms.

The Company also issues Policies on the Buildings of

all kinds, Ground Rents, and Mortgages.

DIRECTORS:

Alfred G. Baker, Thomas S. Grant,

George W. Richards, William S. Grant,

Isaac Lee, Thomas S. Grant,

George F. Baker, President,

JAS. W. MCALLISTER, Secretary,

THOMAS M. REGER, Assistant Secretary.

INSURE AT HOME,

Penna Mutual Life Insurance

COMPANY.

No. 921 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

ASSETS, \$3,000,000.

CHARTERED BY OUR OWN STATE.

MANAGED BY OUR OWN CITIZEN

LOSSES PROMPTLY PAID.

OLICIES ISSUED ON VARIOUS PLANS.

Applications may be made at the Home Office, and

at the Agencies throughout the State. (12 18)

JAMES TRACAPPA, President

SAUEL E. STOKES, Vice-President

JOHN W. HORNOR, A. V